CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 9 OCTOBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF COLOMBIA, CHILE, ECUADOR AND PERU ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PERMANENT SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

The Permanent Representatives of the member countries of the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS), Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru, present their compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and forward to it a press release issued by the General Secretariat of CPPS.

In this regard, the Permanent Representatives of the member countries of the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS) would be grateful if the Conference secretariat would arrange for the translation of the press release into the official languages of the United Nations and its distribution as an official document.

(Signed) Guillermo Alberto González
Permanent Representative
of Colombia

(Signed) Jorge Berguño
Permanent Representative
of Chile

(Signed) Alfredo Pinoargote
Permanent Representative
of Ecuador

(Signed) José Urrutia
Permanent Representative
of Peru

PERMANENT SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE PERMANENT SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

In the context of the statement issued on 4 July 1995 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member countries of CPPS, in connection with France's announcement of the resumption of nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll, the Chairmen of the national sections of the member countries (Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru) and their delegations met at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Permanent South Pacific Commission from 21 to 23 August 1995.

Following meticulous analysis of the agenda submitted by the General Secretariat, the participants adopted it and embarked on their work, the principal topic being the resumption of French nuclear testing at Mururoa atoll.

As a consequence of the meeting, the Chairmen of the national sections agreed to recommend the following set of measures to their Governments:

Reiteration to France of the resolute rejection of its decision to resume nuclear testing, with a demand that the decision should be reconsidered;

A demand to the French Government for access to the most comprehensive and unrestricted information on the nuclear explosions;

A declaration that peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and inseparable, highlighting the validity of the precautionary principle, a mainstay of international environmental law contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the conventions on biological diversity and climate change, the Maastricht Treaty and other international instruments to which France has committed itself;

Coordinated action in this regard at the summit meetings of the Presidents of the Rio Group, the Latin American countries and the non-aligned group, the General Conference of IAEA and the United Nations General Assembly, inter alia;

Non-participation in the scientific missions to Mururoa atoll recently proposed by France at IAEA, on the grounds inter alia that these missions would be carried out after the nuclear explosions which are to be condemned;

Acceptance of the suggestion made by the Chilean delegation for the holding of a meeting of Ministers of the Environment, under CPPS auspices, on Easter Island, with the member countries of the South Pacific Forum invited to participate.

Lima, 23 August 1995